

August 23, 2021

Elizabeth Adams, Director, Air and Radiation Division, Region 9
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street, AIR-7
San Francisco, California 94105
Elizabeth.adams@epa.gov

Dear Director Adams:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is submitting final documentation for 2020 exceptional events that occurred in the Coso Junction PM₁₀ Nonattainment Area in Inyo County in the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District). CARB requests that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) concur that the documents accompanying this request support the flagging of PM₁₀ exceedances in the District as natural or exceptional events due to wildfire smoke impacts particularly from the SQF Complex in the Sequoia and Inyo National Forests and the Creek Fire in the Sierra National Forest.

Unusually high PM₁₀ concentrations, exceeding the 24-hour PM₁₀ National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS or standard) of 150 µg/m³, were recorded at the Coso Junction monitoring site (AQS ID 06-027-1001-4) on September 7, 2020. The analyses and data presented in the accompanying documents demonstrate that without the impacts from the wildfire smoke, concentrations measured at the monitoring site would have been below the standard.

The 30-day public comment period required by 40 CFR 50.14(c)(3)(v) was completed on July 1, 2021. No comments were received and the final documentation includes statements to that effect, with the transmittal letter from the District containing an affidavit of publication as required by 40 CFR 50.14(c)(3)(v).

On October 3, 2016, U.S. EPA revised the *Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events* rule (Rule) that allows data to be flagged and excluded from consideration by U.S. EPA when making decisions related to the attainment status of an area (81 FR 68216). The District is submitting their second PM₁₀ 10-year Maintenance Plan (Plan) for the Coso Junction PM₁₀ nonattainment area. This Plan relies on exclusion of the affected data to show maintenance of the 24-hour PM₁₀ standard of 150 µg/m³. The Rule requires that states submit documentation to support the initial flagging to the appropriate U.S. EPA Regional Office.

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If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documentation, please contact Sylvia Vanderspek, Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch, at (916) 324-7163 or via email at sylvia.vanderspek@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael Benjamin, D. Env., Division Chief, Air Quality Planning and Science Division

Enclosures (2)

cc: With Enclosures

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Sylvia Vanderspek, Branch Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch